(c) if so, to what extent this decision of Government has been welcomed; and

(d) whether all the States have agreed to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Central Government do not have any proposal under consideration for a uniform stamp duty regime of 5 per cent across all States to unearth black money and to develop a robust secondary market in real estate, as the matter relating to stamp duty on real estate transactions comes under the purview of the State Governments, by virtue of Entry 63 in List-II (State List) in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. Hence, it is for the State Governments to take a decision in the matter.

DA due to Central Government Employees

2217. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of additional dearness allowance/relief, in terms of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission that has become due to the Central Government employees and pensioners *w.e.f.* 1st January, 2005; and

(b) by when the announcement to release the same is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Dearness Allowance (DA)/ Dearness Relief (DR) to Central Government Employees/Pensioners is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July and normally payable with salary for the months of March and September respectively. The revised amount of DA/DR will be notified at the appropriate time.

Traders' stir against service Tax

2218. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: